

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hydrocarbon adsorbent state determining apparatus is provided for compensating the ability of a hydrocarbon adsorbent to adsorb moisture for fluctuations due to a change in the flow velocity of exhaust gases to accurately determine the state of the hydrocarbon adsorbent, including a deterioration thereof, irrespective of the change in the flow rate of exhaust gases. The hydrocarbon adsorbent state determining apparatus determines the state of a hydrocarbon adsorbent disposed in an exhaust system of an internal combustion engine for adsorbing hydrocarbons and moisture within exhaust gases. The hydrocarbon adsorbent state determining apparatus comprises a downstream humidity sensor for detecting the humidity of exhaust gases which have passed through the hydrocarbon adsorbent, a flow velocity parameter detector for detecting a flow velocity parameter indicative of a flow velocity of the exhaust gases, and an ECU for determining the state of the hydrocarbon adsorbent in accordance with the detected humidity of the exhaust gases and the flow velocity parameter.